

even of common species. Moreover, a lectotype of *Curculio cloropus* Linnaeus, 1758 has been designated, thereby fixing the identity of this species. I do not want to be an accomplice of Fabricius (and other authors) who made a large number of errors simply because of scientific procedure. If an error is found, it should be corrected in a publication, and be checked (and the correction accepted) by other workers interested in the same subject.

I would like to call attention to the fact that the name *Phyllobius cloropus* has been used recently (Tempère & Péricart, 1989, pp. 47, 475) as the valid name for the species. These French authors took the logical attitude which I defend.

Additional reference

Tempère, G. & Péricart, J. 1989. Coléoptères Curculionidae, quatrième partie. *Faune de France*, 74: 1–534.

(2) Editorial note

Secretariat, International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

The paper by Thompson & Alonso-Zarazaga (1988), in which they demonstrated the synonymy between *C. cloropus* and *C. viridicollis* (and in which Thompson wrote (p. 84) that he proposed to apply to the Commission to be able to use the junior synonym *viridicollis* as the name for the species), is cited in the recently published update of *Coléoptères Curculionidae* (1989). Dr J. Péricart (10 rue Habert, F-77130 Montereau, France) has noted (in litt.) that he had accepted changes in the nomenclature resulting from strict compliance with the Principle of Priority, but only if they had been adopted in previous publications. In other cases, where the name in use was the younger synonym, he had kept that name although indicating that priority would dictate the senior synonym (unless there had been a Commission ruling to the contrary).

According to this procedure he (Péricart) would have used the name *viridicollis* for the species but, by mistake, did not do so. Many changes had been needed during the printing of the publication and this particular one had been overlooked. He, himself, strongly favoured using the name *viridicollis*.

Comment on the proposed precedence of *Culicoides puncticollis* (Becker, 1903) over *C. algecirensis* (Strobl, 1900) (Insecta, Diptera)
(Case 2716; see BZN 46: 179–180, 47: 48)

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I support Dr Boorman's application to uphold *Culicoides puncticollis* (Becker, 1903) for two reasons:

First, to maintain consistency in usage (Article 23b) of *puncticollis* as the specific name of a well known biting midge that 'is readily identified and not involved in any taxonomic problem' (BZN 46: 179, para. 4).

Secondly, the application wisely allows for the possibility that *C. algecirensis* (Strobl, 1900) may, in the light of future studies, prove to be not synonymous with

C. puncticollis. Biosystematics of haematophagous Diptera is increasingly complicated by the unveiling of sibling species complexes (see Service, 1988). In such cases, available synonyms may be ascribed appropriately to each newly recognised biological species comprising a complex. Until the specific integrity of *C. puncticollis* (sensu lato) is researched throughout its range in the Mediterranean, it will be advisable to give precedence to the name *puncticollis* but also to retain *algecirensis*.

Additional reference

Service, M.W. 1989. *Biosystematics of haematophagous insects*. The Systematics Association special volume No. 37. xi, 363 pp.

Comments on the proposed suppression of *Culex peus* Speiser, 1904 to conserve *C. stigmatosoma* Dyar, 1907 and *C. thriambus* Dyar, 1921 (Insecta, Diptera)
(Case 2702; see BZN 46: 247–249)

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It is a sad coincidence that the proposed suppression of *Culex peus* Speiser, 1904 comes soon after the death in 1986 of Fritz Peus, doyen of German culicidologists. This American mosquito's name is merely a homonym, not an eponym, of the man's and there was no connection between them.

A convincing argument is advanced by Eldridge & Harbach for upholding the name *C. thriambus* Dyar, 1921 and suppressing its senior synonym *C. peus* which had been misapplied to the more widespread and medically important species *C. stigmatosoma* Dyar, 1907 in most publications during the years 1958–1988.

The alternative of designating the holotype of *C. stigmatosoma* as neotype of *C. peus* would involve setting aside the latter's holotype, an action likely to provoke some criticism, in order to sustain recent usage of the name *C. peus*. However, the standard textbook of North American mosquitoes by Carpenter & LaCasse (1955) had applied the name *C. stigmatosoma* as now proposed and some workers have continued with this usage throughout. We are told in the proposal that editors have quickly readopted the name *C. stigmatosoma* since it was reported by Strickman (1988) that *C. peus* is a senior synonym of *C. thriambus* and not of *C. stigmatosoma*.

In view of the extensive literature pertaining to the species *C. stigmatosoma*, much of it published under the name *C. peus*, much confusion would arise if *C. peus* is now given precedence over *C. thriambus*. Therefore, I support the proposal to suppress *C. peus*.

Additional reference

Carpenter, S.J. & LaCasse, W.J. 1955. *Mosquitoes of North America (north of Mexico)*. vi, 360 pp. University of California Press, Berkeley.